

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
OFFICE OF THE FIRST PRESIDENCY
47 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE STREET, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84150-1200

August 4, 2020

To: General Authorities, General Officers, and the following leaders in the United States and Canada: Area Seventies; Stake, Mission, District, and Temple Presidents; Bishops and Branch Presidents; Members of Ward and Stake Councils

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Involvement in Legal Proceedings

We remind leaders and members of a long-standing policy that Church leaders should not involve themselves in civil or criminal cases regarding members in their units, quorums, or organizations without first consulting with Church legal counsel (see *General Handbook: Serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, 38.8.26.1, ChurchofJesusChrist.org). This same policy applies to leaders corresponding with court personnel on behalf of criminal defendants or others, including through email.

However well intentioned, Church leaders sharing information in legal proceedings can sometimes be misinterpreted and even damaging. Such sharing can be especially harmful to victims and their families. Following the Church's policy also keeps the Church from being inappropriately implicated in legal matters.

If a leader believes he or she should testify or communicate in a legal matter or if a leader is being required to do so by legal process, that leader must contact the Office of General Counsel at Church headquarters at 1-801-240-6301 or 1-800-453-3860.

Sincerely yours,







The First Presidency